

Burlington Mammal Tracking Project Winter 2016

Contacts: Sophie Mazowita (trackingvt@gmail.com), Alicia Daniel (adaniel@uvm.edu)
<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/burlington-vt-mammal-tracking>

- (1) Project Description
- (2) Next Steps/Questions
- (3) iNaturalist Project Webpage

(1) PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is the project description that was distributed to recruit volunteers in December 2015:

This project aims to map wildlife travel throughout the City of Burlington and at its boundaries, as a follow-up to the ["Where the Wild Things Are"](#) study led by Alicia Daniel 15 years ago. This data will be compiled into a map and report to inform management of open space, with the goal of improving or maintaining connectivity throughout the city. Any and all mammal track and sign observations will be useful for this study, but we'll also be targeting some suspected wildlife corridors with focused tracking efforts.

We offer three different participation options:

- 1 - Focal Area Tracker (lead tracking efforts at a particular location for repeat hour-long surveys over the winter)
- 2 - Casual Tracker (no commitment to a particular area or tracking time, contributing track observations as you come across them this winter)
- 3 - Social Tracker (looking to connect with other trackers and join for some group tracking and trailing on select dates)

Option 1: Focal Area Tracker

Focal area trackers will "adopt" a survey area for the winter, with the goal of visiting that location 1-2 days after major snowfall events to record the presence of our target 10 large mammal species (bobcat, otter, mink, fisher, moose, deer, grey fox, red fox, coyote, and beaver). Focal areas will be set such that surveys can be completed in about one hour. No problem if you miss one or two snowfalls or are away for parts of the winter; just getting out as much as possible to the focal area is the goal. These focused tracking efforts will form the core of our study. Volunteers should have some experience IDing track and sign of our target species. You're also welcome to partner with someone to share a focal area.

Focal areas up for adoption (with more to be decided/determined):

- North Ave near Burlington High School (Manhattan to Killarney Dr) – corridor between Rock Point and Intervale
- Grove Street/Centennial Brook (north of Centennial Woods)
- Valley Ridge Park (north of Centennial Woods)

- Burlington waterfront/bike path through the Urban Reserve (Depot St to Burlington College property)
- Burlington waterfront and rail corridor, Oakledge to Barge Canal area
- Burlington waterfront, Red Rocks and Oakledge Park connection
- Ethan Allen Park
- Privately owned parcel to the north of Ethan Allen Park, between the park and Rt 127
- Howe Farm (Intervale Wildlife Management Area north of Ethan Allen Park)
- Winooski River Corridor from Ethan Allen Homestead to Howe Farm (bike path east of Route 127 and the privately owned parcel to the west, at the north end of Ethan Allen Park)
- Englesby Brook Ravine
- Burlington Country Club
- Lake Champlain shoreline north of Appletree Point

Interested? Let me know if you're available and if you have a preferred tracking location (a specific site or a part of the city)- and feel free to suggest ones that are not yet on this list. We're looking to confirm locations and get started around the first week of January, but we will still have open locations if you are only available in mid-January or even February onwards.

Option 2: Casual Tracker

Trackers of all experience levels are invited to contribute observations through the iNaturalist.org portal (or directly to me via email). I've created an iNaturalist project titled "[Burlington VT Mammal Tracking](#)", and you can use the iNaturalist app to contribute observations in the field with a smartphone- or log on at home. Observations should include:

- Date and description of tracking conditions (time since snowfall, other substrates, etc.)
- Type of sign observed and a PHOTO (with scale) whenever possible
- Measurements and any other details to inform species ID (how could you rule out similar species?)
- Geographic coordinates or very specific directions/description of location
- Any observations of how/where the animal was moving (direction of travel, obstructions to animal movement like fences or blocked culverts, etc.)

Feel free to contribute any mammal observations, but we're particularly interested in the following species: **bobcat, otter, mink, fisher, moose, deer, grey fox, red fox, coyote, black bear, and beaver**. If uncertain about an ID, you can upload a photo and check the "Needs ID!" box to have other trackers offer opinions. We'll also be sharing our observations with the North American Animal Tracking Database on iNaturalist.

Here's a [guide to using iNaturalist](#), courtesy of Jonah Evans and the N. American Tracking Database. If using iNaturalist, be sure to choose the "Burlington VT Mammal Tracking" project (and N. American Animal Tracking Database, if you care to join) whenever adding observations.

Option 3: Social Tracker

Want to join other trackers in the field this winter? Looking to learn the basics or build on your skills? I'll be organizing a few group tracking outings over the course of the winter, mainly in February and March, to explore various locations and add to our tracking data set. Get in touch if you'd like to stay in the loop.

Interested? Or to stay connected...

If you'd like to get involved, let me know your level of interest, and I'll email you with next steps in early January- or feel free to start posting on [iNaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org). If you can't commit but want to stay in touch about project updates, let me know and I will place you on the general mailing list (expect 1-2 messages per month at most).

Thanks,
Sophie

(2) NEXT STEPS/QUESTIONS

- We have 36 volunteers who signed on to the project- now we're just waiting for good snowfall, which might unfortunately keep us waiting until next winter! But we will likely have around 50 mammal observations from 2016, plus tracking data from previous studies
 - How best to represent this data? Which maps and visuals would be most useful?
 - Pros and cons of interactive, online iNaturalist map vs. a static one prepared with ArcGIS?
- Updates to the tracking and data collection protocol for future years?
 - Which parts of the City have been underrepresented in our data collection efforts?
 - What information do we want besides species presence and location?

(3) iNATURALIST PROJECT WEBPAGE

The following pages show screenshots from the project website.

« Projects

Terms & Rules | Edit project



Stats

Totals

26
Observations »

11
Species »

5
People »

Most Observations

sophie
14 observations

rcrcttol
7 observations

charlie
2 observations

jbmaterick
2 observations

Most Species

sophie
7 species

rcrcttol
5 species

jbmaterick
2 species

charlie
1 species

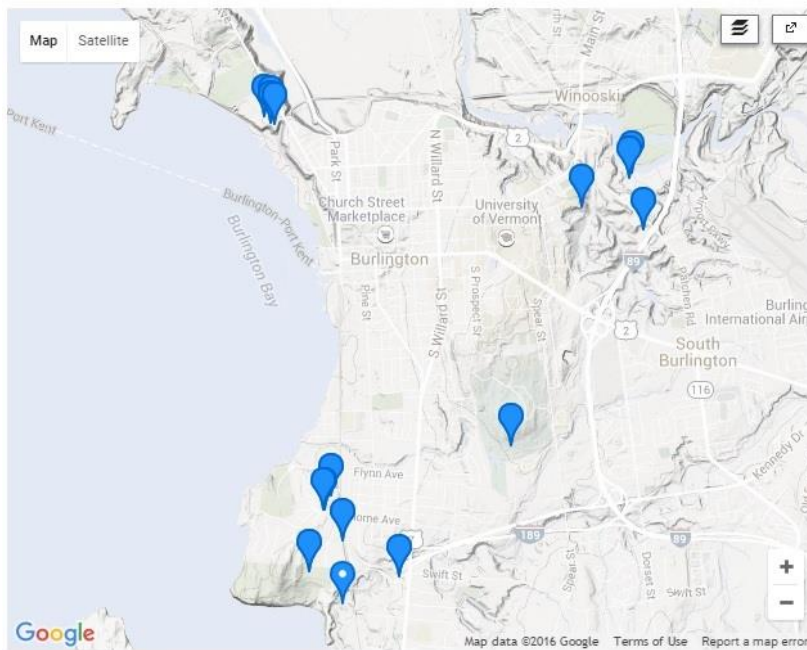
Most Observed Species

Red Fox
7 observations

Gray Fox
5 observations

White-tailed Deer
4 observations

Raccoon
2 observations



Members



View all members »

Your membership

14 observations

Add from your observations

Download template for use in the bulk uploader

Export observations

Atom / KML / CSV

Usage stats

Project curator tools

Find suitable observations

Find unsuitable observations

Export with private coordinates

Filter by curator identification

Journal

Your project journal is a tool for communicating with project members. You can use it to make announcements, set priorities, or talk about your project's findings.

To get started, [create a post](#) »

About

Welcome to the Burlington Mammal Tracking Project, started in Winter 2016.

This project aims to map wildlife travel throughout the City of Burlington and at its boundaries, as a follow-up to the "Where the Wild Things Are" study* led by Alicia Daniel and Mark Ward 15 years ago. This data will be compiled into a map and report to inform management of open space, with the goal of ...more ↓

[Like](#) [Share](#) 6

sophie created this project on December 29, 2015

Is this inappropriate, spam, or offensive? [Add a flag](#)

Embed a widget for this project on your website

Recent observations

View all »

Grid List

